



# Bethel Baptist

January 2016

## Thoughts from Pastor Gene

*So we have stopped evaluating others by what the world thinks about them. Once I mistakenly thought of Christ that way, as though he were merely a human being. How differently I think about him now! What this means, is that, those who become Christians become new persons. They are not the same anymore, for the old life is gone. A new life has begun! (II Corinthians 5:16-17 (NLT))*

Trusting in Jesus as one's Savior and Lord is the beginning of new life in Christ. Along with a new beginning comes the promise of ongoing transformation. Positive and lasting change becomes realistic and attainable. The beginning of a new year is a timely reminder that God has a wonderful plan for our lives and He is actively working all things together *"for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose (Romans 8:28)."*

From time to time God gives us the realization that there is something we need to stop doing or start doing. It may be something personal, moral, financial, relational or spiritual. The end result can be more self-esteem, better morality, reduced monetary stress, improved relationships and a closer walk with Jesus. What is certain is if we choose to act upon the inspiration and conviction, it will begin a process of change that will significantly recreate our lives.

Paul mentioned that he had *"stopped evaluating others by what the world thinks about them."* Paul had been guilty of misjudging the value and importance of others. He had even mistakenly concluded at one time that Jesus was a failure and fraud, and His followers were deserving of persecution and incarceration. Once Paul

became a believer in Jesus, he began to experience a remarkable transformation in his heart and mind. Increasing, the way he lived his life and how he viewed other people changed.

Where will your journey with God take you in 2016? If you choose to trust and obey, I can assure you it will be remarkable and worthwhile!

## January Events

Join us on **Sunday, January 10**, as our friend **Ric Gorden** joins us as our special guest during our 11 am service. God has blessed Ric with a wonderful music ministry that speaks to people of all ages. His passion for God and his love for people are clearly revealed through his heartfelt songs. Invite your family and friends to join you in what promises to be a relaxed and refreshing all-music service!

We'll be holding our first business meeting of the new year on **Sunday, January 17**. During the quarterly business meeting we'll review the church's 2015 finances, as well as get a preview of upcoming events and a discussion about the selection of new missionaries to support. The business meeting will take place immediately after our 11 am service, so we hope you'll stay to hear what's happening at Bethel.

During our worship service on **Sunday, January 24**, we'll be observing our first communion of the new year. Jesus instituted the Lord's Supper before His crucifixion while observing the Passover with His disciples. When believers participate in Communion today, they are commemorating the death of Christ for our sins and expressing their ongoing desire to be in fellowship with Christ and other Christ-followers.

faith &  
hope love

## Church Directory Updates

We're getting ready to update our church directory, so we'd appreciate it if you'd provide us with any changes to your contact information. We know some of us have moved, have new emails, or new phone numbers. Please turn in your updates to the church office or place them in the offering plate during worship services. We hope to have the 2016 Church Directories available by the middle of February.

## Notes from the Annual Business Meeting

We held our annual business meeting on Sunday, December 6. Pastor Gene opened the meeting after motions from Eric Stewart and Gayle Thomas. The first order of business was the election of new officers. The following individuals were unanimously elected:

Eric Stewart, Deacon  
Lyra Bemis, Trustee  
Matt Cross, Trustee  
Glenda Atkinson, Church Clerk

The proposed budget for 2016 was also unanimously approved.

Pastor Gene provided updates on some of our missionaries. Jon Lyles and his family have left their mission field in Italy to concentrate on their family. Jon had begun the transition to a mission field serving the refugees arriving in Italy, but family needs caused him to leave the field completely. Brother Hoy is continuing his cancer treatments and, as a result, was not able to go to Mexico for the food distribution this year. He has trusted workers though who are handling the food purchases and will be overseeing the distribution of the food to those in need in Mexico. Debbie Lane is at home with her family, and is continuing to work on what will be next for her after the sudden death of her husband Mike this fall.

Pastor Gene closed the meeting after motions by Gale Bridges and Mike Quigg.

*Whatever you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.  
(I Corinthians 10:31)*

It's the start of a new year and the time when many of us make a promise to ourselves that **this** will be the year that we eat better, get more sleep, and get in better shape. To help us with that, we'll be focusing on health and fitness in January!



Our kids will be participating in **Fitness Camp** during Sunday School each Sunday in January! Wear comfortable clothes and sneakers each Sunday, because we'll be working out, having a fun (and healthy) snack, and talking about taking care of the amazing bodies that God has given us!

Our teenagers will be participating in a similar program called **WholeFaith**, where they will also be talking and learning about how best to take care of themselves.



And don't worry . . . we haven't left the adults out! We're going to be providing information on **The Daniel Plan** for anyone interested. The Daniel Plan is a healthy lifestyle program founded on biblical principles and focused on the following areas: Faith, Food, Fitness, Focus and Friends. The program offers an approach to achieving a healthy lifestyle where people get better together by optimizing their health in each of these life areas. Each essential supports and influences the others, offering a practical step-by-step approach for anyone to follow.

We'll be sharing information from the plan each week, but if you'd like more information you can check out [www.danielplan.com](http://www.danielplan.com).